PT 2 of 3 SCS

370

August 2, 1977

Prime Minister Forbes Burnham
Government Building
Brick Dam
George Town, Guiana
South America

DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR
REVIEWED BY
DATE
EXCISE EXEMPT DATE
REASON(S)
MARKINGS
DECLASSIFY EXCISE DELETABLE
RELEASE DENIED
FOI EXEMPTIONS

Honorable Sir:

I have been active in community programs in the San Francisco area for over forty years. I am a member of long standing in the I.L.W.U. - Longshoremen's Union, the Third Baptist Church and a Deputy Mayor of the City (Deputy for Neighborhood Development). I am well acquainted with the activities of Peoples Temple Church and with the integrity and character of its pastor, Reverend Jim Jones.

Concerning them I say without qualification that this church has been second to none in preventing crime in the city. They have donated thousands of dollars to city-sponsored fund drives for the purpose of creating summer jobs for youth and programs for cultural enrichment.

Too often clever and cynical newswriters, skilled in the art of withering sarcasm and satire can capture the imagination of people, take statements violently out of context and create an atmosphere where violence and harassment result.

On two occasions that I know of, this church has been burned, its members physically attacked, its youngsters attending school humiliated and terrorized. In spite of these discouraging incidents Peoples Temple has remained a vital force for decency and dignity for us all.

The article printed by News West and others are typical of the forces of evil who would destroy a good thing.

Very truly yours,

Joe Johnson
1108 Goettingen Street
San Francisco, California 94134